

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

Winter in the South. It's one of the reasons why I love it here. While the North is being pummeled from back to back storms, we're moving our beams to work DX instead of trying to break the ice off the elements.

It's a few weeks past the EP6T (Iran) DXpedition and from the cluster comments - it was indeed a cluster. High noise levels on their side, less than stellar op's, and frequent visits from the authorities for "station inspections" conspired to limit the number of QSO's - especially anyone outside of Europe which gleaned 70% of their total contacts.

Now we're into the next big one - K1N (Navassa Island). Talk about game day excitement. Super Bowl Sunday. The K1N website says they've arrived and are setting up the first stations and should be QRV sometime during the game. Around 2 PM I turned the beam to 150 degrees, set the radio to scan 20m, and kept an ear to the radio room while in the kitchen preparing game snacks. There was so much excitement I heard Georgia Contesters working COBLY just to make sure their stations were ready. I confess to doing the same.

So they're on the air now and the pile-ups are as big as everyone expected. Be sure to

work this one soon because if history is any indicator, Navassa won't be heard again for 32 years. DON'T FORGET - SPLIT!

We'll get the inside scoop from Navassa from expedition member Gregg Marco W6IZT - our featured speaker at the 2105 Huntsville Hamfest DX Banquet.

The main door prize at this year's Banquet, with fantastic support from Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV of Yaesu and Robby Sperr KF4LFQ of Gigaparts, will be a new Yaesu FTdx1200. The event will be at the Best Western Madison, the same venue as last year. Be sure to read Bill's meeting minutes for full coverage of other important details from the last meeting and an Officer's & Director's meeting held in January.

For a final. Those near the top of the DX Honor Roll know how progressively more difficult it becomes to work a new one. Those in the middle or just starting out will find contests a great way to add to one's total. A few notable big one's this month: Feb 14 & 15 is CQ WW RTTY WPX, Feb 21 & 22 is ARRL Inter. DX CW, and Feb 27-Mar 1 is CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB.

73, Mark N4BCD



Mark in the N4BCD hot seat. The green lights at the top of the Alpha amp prove Mark does not engage in arguments about whether QRP is 5W or 10W on SSB.

January NADXC Meeting Minutes

By Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Secretary/Treasurer

Meeting opened by Mark Brown, President. We had 33 in attendance including 3 guests.

DX Worked by club members etc.

Bob Burns K4RHB displayed two DXCC Awards he received from the ARRL, one for DXCC mixed and one for Phone DXCC.

Rob Suggs got the Triple Play Award and also logged Namibia

Dan Whitsett W4BRE got 4Z5 on PSK mode.

Steve Werner AG4W logged 9M2TO on 40M and TGT

Wayne Reed K4TTZ got Easter Island, Austral, Island, Fernando de Naronha Island.

Bob Friend KC4TNC logged New Caledonia.

Tom Russell N4KG did a whopping job on W1AW toward the end of the year

Bruce Smith AC4G logs ZL1RS on 6M for an all time new one in the log.

Kelly Johns W4VPZ got Cayman Island.

Bill Bathgate KD8IGK got 5JOR Galapagos Island, RI1ANC Antarctica and 9K2OP Kuwait in the log.

Announcements:

For those attending the December Christmas outing we awarded Johnny Winter K4RF with DX'er of the year award.

Warren Alford KJ4RAQ was awarded "Outstanding Ham of the Year by the HARC club.

Bob DePierre K8KI has an article published in the January edition of QST, titled "Measure Your Receiver's Digital Noise Reduction"

Bill Bathgate KD8IGK our Secretary/Treasurer announced that compared to last year at this same time our bank balance increased by \$621.00 due to increased membership and good returns from our NADXC Banquet

Everyone has been asking with regards to W1AW QSL cards and the ARRL did announce that these are currently in process, this will be a large undertaking, and can you imagine how many QSL cards will be shipped out? Probably over 500,000.

We continually seek out improvement of our dining options for meeting and the new Golden Corral just opened, but we found out they have no separate dinning space.

Kelly Johns W4VPZ announced she was having an antenna tower party to move a tower and beam to her home from another ham that lives down the street.

Tom N4KG showed us his new value find at Harbor Freight, an inexpensive high power flashlight he uses to see which way his beam is headed at night

Budget

Our 2015 budget was presented, Johnny K4RF moved for acceptance and Bob K4RHB seconded, all members present approved the budget. The budget is posted in the Long Path. We expect to have a balanced budget for the year with no anticipation of large unexpected expenses.

New members

Gary Agranat WA2JQZ of Huntsville, AL.

Our January Program;

Johnny K4RF presented a program on solar indices and propagation. Johnny gave us an excellent representation and we all learned that instead of what many of us thought that the Sun was made up of gases when it is actually plasma. We should all check out <http://www.solarham.net/index.htm>.

Treasurer's Report

Current Bank Balance – January report
Beginning Balance - Jan 6... \$ 3,583.93
Deposits..... \$ 421.42
Withdrawal (Gigaparts / Banquet Door Prize)..... \$ (200.00)
Ending Balance - Feb 3..... \$ 3,805.35

William Bathgate KD8IGK

Going to Dayton?

Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK

I am seeking a partner for the Dayton Hamvention. I am leaving HSV on May 14th returning May 17th.

I decided to book a double bed hotel room at a Best Western closet to the Hara Arena that I can share if someone is looking to save some money.

Let me know.

William Bathgate, KD8IGK
256-529-1076

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

NADXC Directors Meeting

Notes by Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Secretary/Treasurer

NADXC Officers & Directors Annual Meeting – Held at Noon, January 21, 2015, Newk's on University Dr.

Attended by:

Mark Brown N4BCD – President

Warren Alford KJ4RAQ – Vice President

Bill Bathgate KD8IGK – Secretary / Treasurer

Tom Duncan KG4CUY – Director

Kevin Hibbs KG4TEI – Director

Agenda:

Bill has worked to get Gregg W6IZT committed to be our Banquet speaker. He'll be back fresh from K1N.

Bill also negotiated a group rate at the Best Western for our Banquet attendees.

Bill is working on the Banquet room reservation.

Mark worked with Dennis Motschenbacher of Yaesu & Gigaparts and reports that for \$200 in club funds, we will take delivery of a Yaesu FTdx1200 radio for our main door prize.

It was decided to additionally procure a Yaesu FT60R dual band HT for a door prize

Bill is working with Rick Ruhl for some HRD licenses for additional door prizes. Bill will also contact Bob Heil for possible door prizes this year.

Other agenda items:

Additional door prizes.

Staffing the NADXC booth during Hamfest.

NADXC picnic date – Decided Mid September 2015

Launch date for putting up the PayPal site for the Banquet & what club mail lists to notify. Decided for Mid April 2015

Debate the idea of email requests to honor table reservations for parties purchasing a block of six or eight tickets. - Approved

Dues status – do we want to publish a list like ACG of membership roster of paid / unpaid? – Will be updated on the web site for Feb 2015

Update to DXCC standings on web-site. Pending due March 2015

Brainstorm some program ideas.

Upcoming programs:

Phased Verticals versus Parasitic Vertical Arrays

Use of the new N1MM + program

Flex Radio presentation from Steve Conklin, AI4QR

An overview of successful “Shack” architectures with pictures

FLDIGI from David Frieze

Portable Operations (aka Alabama QSO party, etc.)

Antenna Ad

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Yesterday I received an email from INAC, a Spanish company offering an interesting twist on the STEP-IR, loop-style. I'm not sure why I got the email (perhaps because I drove through their home town once when I was lost), maybe you received the email as well.

Details of their AX-330 antenna are available at inac-radio.com/en/Antenas-AX/AX330. Note on the right of the page a bunch of links, including “Options for Antennas”. One of the options is color—not something you run into every day.

While U.S. hams will not consider the price a bargain, it might not be out of the question for Europeans. Price aside, a major but seemingly overlooked strength of the tunable loop configuration is its apparent sensitivity to long-delayed-echo signals. Take a look at the QSL cards in the margins for proof.

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/ Treasurer	Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK
At-large directors	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

2015 NADXC Approved Budget

The 2015 budget below was approved
by voice vote at the January 2015
NADXC Meeting.

2015 NADXC Budget

Creation Date: January 7, 2015

Item #	Description	Bank Balance	Income	Expenses
1	Balance, Jan 1, 2015	\$ 3,584		
2	Dues receipts (estimated 31 members x \$15.00 each)	\$ 4,049	\$ 465	
3	Hamfest Banquet Door Prize Funds	\$ 3,749		\$ 300
4	Annual Club Picnic (shelter rental Monte Sano)	\$ 3,674		\$ 75
5	Plaque, Young Ham of the Year Award	\$ 3,624		\$ 50
6	Plaque, DX'er of the Year	\$ 3,574		\$ 50
7	Repeater Power Bill	\$ 3,494		\$ 80
8	Annual Web Hosting & Domain Service	\$ 3,419		\$ 75
9	DX Expedition Sponsorship	\$ 3,019		\$ 400
10	DX Banquet Speaker Expenses	\$ 2,869		\$ 150
11	DX Club Banquet Receipts (80 Tickets)	\$ 5,909	\$ 3,040	
12	DX Club Banquet Expenses (80 Meals based on 2014 Hotel rate)	\$ 3,589		\$ 2,320
	Projected Year End Balance	\$ 3,589	\$ 3,505	\$ 3,500
	Net bank balance difference for the year	\$ 5		

ARRL Centennial QSO Party

By Tom Russell, N4KG

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party was a year-long operating event that celebrated hams making contacts. The Centennial QSO Party was made-up of two main activities: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which was the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. To have a score listed online in the Points Challenge competition, logs must be submitted through the [Logbook of the World \(LoTW\)](#) system.

The [Centennial QSO Party Leader Boards](#) are available and sortable – you can see how many times you appear in the logs of W1AW portable stations, and you can also see how many points you have accumulated! The total points shown, in the left column, represents the points accumulated based

upon your log – these QSOs do not need to be confirmed to count. The right-side column numbers, with the W1AW chase scores come from the W1AW logs themselves – so these QSOs with W1AW may not always appear in your QSO Points Challenge data.

W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only [W1AW portable operations](#).

Can you work the W1AW portable operations during each state's second operation? Yes! You may work each week's W1AW operation for points for the QSO Points Challenge (*and QSO Credit for the State Race**).

The above introduction to the ARRL Centennial QSO Party intrigued me to participate in order to accumulate and

confirm (via LoTW) W.A.S. on the WARC Bands where I had only 1 or 2 states confirmed, and to complete some of my Single-Band Single-Mode W.A.S. awards.

I was pleased to work and confirm all 50 states on CW, SSB, and RTTY qualifying for the ARRL Triple Play Award, as well as confirming ALL 50 states on 80,40,30,20,17,15 meters, missing only 4 states on 160 and 3 on 10 and 12 meters.

It was not clear that State QSO credits were accumulated from EACH session for each state until later in the year when the leaders suddenly pulled way ahead of me!

Some tabulations of points of interest to NADXC members are on the following page.

ARRL Centennial QSO Party

(cont'd from p. 4)

W1AW/portable top AL and select TN
Stations

Top AL and selected TN Centennial
Points

Rank	Call Sign	QSOs
28	N4KG	1936
44	AC4G	1830
62	N4JF	1725
84	KR4F	1648
225	NA4MM	1182
230	KI4TWA	1176
435	N4KC	890
451	W4NBS	876
755	KB5EZ	672
780	NN4R	659
877	K4HAL	613
906	KS4L	600
932	ND4Q	588
942	WN4AT	584
1058	WA8HSB	533
1080	K5WP	526
1135	N4BCD	509
1142	KG4CUY	506
1182	W4DSM	493
1249	K4YMQ	477
1396	KK4TE	445
1554	N4SDB	416
1669	KI4SP	394
1946	WA4MIT	345
1953	KW4J	344
1967	KJ4LTA	342
2095	KO4SB	325
2095	KO4SB	325
2188	KG4MPU	313
2403	NR4J	287
2709	N4WE	258
2813	W4MD	250
2937	KC4TLK	241
3051	N4VN	233
3220	WA1FCN	221
3320	N4KH	215
3563	W4JBB	200
3726	N4NM	192
3744	AJ1F	191
3871	WA4NZD	184

Rank	Call Sign	Points	QSOs
5	N4JF	199234	19616
162	KR4F	63334	6068
235	K5WP	55038	4451
300	ND4Q	50246	1930
324	KJ4LTA	48587	3315
350	AG4W	47245	3075
410	N4SDB	44415	1040
476	KO4SB	41619	1056
512	N4KH	39773	4828
636	K4HAL	35117	4107
670	N4KC	34396	1647
693	N4KG	33925	4693
841	AC4G	30470	3264
1102	K4WI	26594	4120
1131	KS4L	26129	2863
1228	NA4MM	24793	1708
1263	W4DSM	24275	975
1335	W4NBS	23337	1502
1457	NN4R	22102	974
1466	N4BCD	21989	1363
1612	WA4MIT	20775	1592
1787	WA8HSB	19286	1721
1799	K4YMQ	19191	1075
1852	WN4AT	18726	2148
1886	KG4CUY	18494	2060

W1AW PORTABLE STATIONS STATE TOTALS N4KG

BAND	CW	SSB	RTTY	TOTAL
160	44	41	22	46
80	50	49	44	50
40	50	50	47	50
30	50	-	45	50
20	50	49	47	50
17	50	49	45	50
15	50	49	44	50
12	46	40	30	47
10	47	47	25	47
TOTAL	50	50	50	

DX Contests for February

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

CQWW RTTY WPX Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Feb 14, 0000Z to Feb 15, 2400Z

Exchange: RST & Serial No.

See page 91, Feb. QST and
www.cqwpwrtty.com

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest (PH/CW), 160 meters

Feb 14, 2100Z to Feb 15, 0100Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No. (& UK district)

See page 91, Feb. QST and
www.rsgbcc.org

Asia-Pacific Sprint, (CW), 40 & 20 meters

Feb 14, 1100Z to Feb 15, 1300Z

Exchange: RST & serial #

See page 91, Feb. QST and
www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

ARRL Intl. DX Contest, (CW), 160-10 meters

Feb 21, 0000Z to Feb 22, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus State/Province;
DX send RST plus pwr.

See page 91, Feb. QST and
www.arrl.org/contests

REF French Contest (PH/CW), 80-10 meters

Feb 21, 0600Z to Feb 22, 1800Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial No.; F stns.
send Dept.

See page 91, Feb. QST and
www.concours.ref-union.org

CQWW 160 Meter Contest (PH), 160 meters

Feb 27, 2200Z to Mar 1, 2200Z

Exchange: RS plus State/Province/
CQ zone

See page 91, Feb. QST and
www.CQ160.com

UBA (Belgium) Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Feb 28, 1300Z to Mar 1, 1300Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.; ON
stns. send province

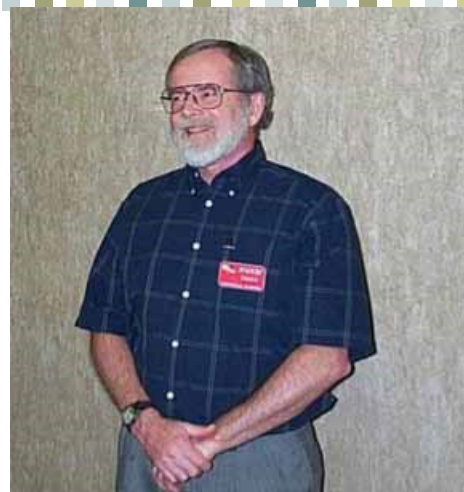
See page 91, Feb. QST and
www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules

ARRL Intl. DX Contest, (PHONE), 160-10 meters

Mar 7, 0000Z to Mar 8, 2400Z

Exchange: RS plus State/Province;
DX send RS plus pwr

See www.arrl.org/contests



OTHERS:

Dutch PACC Contest,

1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15

Russian PSK WW Contest,

2100Z, Feb 20 to 2100Z, Feb 21

Dates & times often change or are mis-
printed in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

Verticals

Program by Tom Russell, N4KG

Tom will present a program on phased and parasitic vertical arrays. We don't know too much more that that—come with theories, questions, and observations. We meet again at Ryan's around 6:00 pm next Tuesday, 7:00 pm for the business meeting, and 7:30 for the program.

See you there!

